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01/08/01



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HONORABLE COMMISSIONER
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January 5, 2001

Dear Sir:

Information Disclosure Statement Of A System And Method For Controlling Access To User Interface Elements

Pursuant to the guidelines for Information Disclosure Statements set forth in 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97-1.99 and MPEP Section 609, Applicant submits herewith patents, publications and other information of which he is aware, which is believed to may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty of disclosure in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

A list of patents and publications is set forth on the attached Form "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant." A copy of each item listed is supplied herewith.

Yoshimoto, U.S. Patent 4,570,223 shows an electronic cash register system with an operation ability determination circuit that controls whether a specific cashier using a cashier identification means can perform specific register operations. **Suzuki, U.S. Patent 4,651,279** shows a system that stores and uniquely identifies users based on a secret code and assigned operation level and controls output of requested information based on the requested information's assigned operation level.

MICROSOFT, Microsoft Windows User Experience, Published by Microsoft Press Date Published: 09/1999; ISBN: 0735605661. This reference describes the different types of user interface elements present in the Microsoft Windows operating system that can be controlled by the present invention.

PEACHTREE, User's Guide for Peachtree Office Accounting, Release 6.0, Published by Peachtree Software Inc., 1998 (pgs. 501-507). This reference explains the security features of Peachtree Accounting and the various levels of access control to different program modules, display windows, and system functions.

None of the references shown has the ability to selectively control individual user elements of the display window to permit or deny access to individual user interface elements on a user-by-user basis as in claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11.

None of the references shown can limit access to both data and functional user interface elements as in claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11.

None of the references shown can access all the individual user interface elements on a program display window as in claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11.

None of the references shown can allow an administrator to tailor the type of access restriction for each individual user interface elements as in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11 and are limited in relying on the software developer's preconceived ideas of security access.

The **Yoshimoto** system is limited to use in an electronic cash register and does not apply to point of sale (POS) systems using PCs. **Yoshimoto** controls access to operator functions only, by enabling or disabling specific keys on the cash register using hard-wired circuits and electronic switches, unlike the present invention that enables or disables both function and data elements in the program display window through the use of software control and does not effect the functionality of the keyboard; but disables, blanks, hides, or obscures the selected individual user function or data elements in the program display window as in claims 4 and 11.

The **Suzuki** system is limited to controlling user access to electronic cash register functions for generating reports based on the sales performed by the cash register and does not apply to point of sale (POS) systems using PCs. The **Suzuki** system does not control access to the individual data elements that are the basis of such cash register sales reports, and only controls the report generating function of the electronic cash register; unlike the present invention that controls cashier access to the individual data elements and functionality elements during the time of the transaction, as in claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11, as well as after the sale when generating reports.

The **Peachtree** system only allows access control to entire accounting modules (for example, Accounts Payable), a specific window (for example, Maintain Customers), or a system function (for example, Change Accounting Periods) and cannot provide access control on any program display window's elements by blanking or obscuring data and functionality user interface elements as in the present invention. **Peachtree** only allows five levels of access control to the program, whereas the present invention can have virtually unlimited levels of access assigned to individual user interface elements.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

Respectfully submitted,



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